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SUBJECT: TURKEY AND RECC ON AFGHANISTAN IN NEW DELHI

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11. In response to reftel demarche pressing for high level participation at the November 18-19 Regional Economic Cooperation Conference (RECC) on Afghanistan in New Delhi, MFA Economic Department Head Kemal Kaygisiz emphasized that Turkey assigned great importance to Afghan reconstruction and was contributing significantly to those efforts. He welcomed the demarche from the USG and said that MFA was still giving serious consideration to the Turkey delegation. He said no firm decision had yet been made whether the Foreign Minister would lead the delegation.

12. The Indian Embassy DCM thanked us for coordinating our demarche with them, although he was unable to join the meeting. He said that he had been told unofficially that FM Gul could not participate and the MFA was considering Deputy Undersecretary for Economic Relations Ender Arat. The DCM also said that they were working on generating good participation for the business-to-business forum.

Wilson